

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-04 INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05 USIA-06  
EA-07 ISO-00 EUR-12 PRS-01 NEA-10 /067 W  
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R 051520Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6710

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 22763

NESCO

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: UNESCO, AORG, PROG  
SUBJECT: UNESCO: EXPERTS MEETING (CAT VI) ON NEWS  
AGENCIES IN AISIA

REF: STATE 180035

1. UNESCO EXPERTS MEETING ON NEWS AGENCIES AIN SIA  
IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR THE END OF NOVERMBER IN  
SRI LANKA, NOT JOGJAKARTA AS SUGGESTED REFTEL.  
SECRETARIAT HAS OBTAINED AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE FROM  
NEW GOV. OF SRI LANKA, BUT ARRAGEMENTS HAVE YET TO BE  
FORMALIZED.

2. ACCORDING TO SECRETARIAT SOURCE (WHO PASSED FOLLOW-  
ING INFORMATION IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE), PARTICIPANTS  
WILL BE INVITED IN THEIR PERSONAL CAPACITIES, NOT AS  
REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENTS, AND INCLUDE MOSTLY  
HEADS OF ASIA NEWS AGENCIES AND DIRECTORS OF NEWS  
AGENCY BUREAUS. SOME KEY PERSONALITIES, ACCORDING TO  
PRELIMINARY PLANS, WILL COME FROM AUSTRALIA  
( HEAD OF NEWS, AUSTRALIAN BORADCASTING), JAPAN (KYODO),  
NAPAL (GENERAL MANAGER OF NEPAL NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY),  
MALAYSIA (MALAYSIAN NEWS AGENCY), SINGAPORE, INDONSESIA  
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(INDONESIAN NEWS AGENCY-ANTARA), AND HONG KONG. OB-  
SERVERS WILL ALSO BE INVITED FORMALLY, INCLUDING REPRE-  
SENTATIVES OF REUTERS, UPI, AP, AGENCE FRANCE PRESS,  
AND TASS. GOVERNMENTS, AS SUCH, WILL NOT BE INVITED TO  
ATTEND AS OBERVERS.

3. AS PARTICIPATION WILL BE BASED ON CURRENT MEMBER-

SHIP IN "ORGANIZATION OF ASIAN NEWS AGENCIES" (OANA, WHICH IS A RECOGNIZED UNESCO NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGAIZATION, CATEGORY C), TAIWAN WILL BE INVITED. NORTH KOREA, THE PRC, AND VIETNAM ARE NOT MEMBERS, AND WILL NOT RECEIVE INVITATIONS.

4. QUESTION OF TAIWANESE MEMBERSHIP IN OANA POSSESSES OBVIOUS POLITICAL PROBLEMS WITH RESPECT TO CONTINUED ACCREDITATION AS A RECOGNIZED NGO. WE ARE TOLD THAT OANA IS FULLY AWARE OF IMPLICATIONS, BUT IS CONSTRAINED BY CONSTITUTION FROM EXPELLING A MEMBER STATE, EXCEPT AS AN ACTION TAKEN BY ITS MEMBERSHIP CONSTITUTED AT A GENERAL ASSEMBLY. OANA MEMBERS INTEND TO RESPECT CONSTITUTION, WHICH MAY BE DRAWN IS THAT AT LEAST SOME MEMBERS (UNNAMED) ARE CONSIDERING EXPULSION OF TAIWAN IN ORDER TO BROADEN MEMBERSHIP TO INCLUDE THE PRC.

5. FACT THAT OANA GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS NOT MET SINCE 1971, OWING MOSTLY TO FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES, HAS MEANT THAT UNTIL NOW OANA HAS NOT COME TO GRIPS WITH QUESTION OF TAIWAN'S MEMBERSHIP, EVEN THOUGH SOME MEMBERS WOULD SEEM TO SUPPORT SUCH ACTION. ACCORDINGLY, WE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT OANA MEMBERS WILL USE OPPORTUNITY PROVIDED BY UNESCO EXPERTS MEETING CONSTITUTE THEMSELVES AS A GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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BEFORE OR AFTER THE UNESCO MEETING TO DEAL WITH PROBLEM OF TAIWANESE MEMBER SHIP ON A CONSTITUTIONAL BASIS.

6. UNESCO SECRETARIAT IS ALERT TO POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF CONJUNCTION OF UNESCO EXPERTS MEETING WITH AN OANA GENERAL ASSEMBLY WHICH MIGHT EXPEL TAIWAN FROM MEMBERSHIP. JUST RECENTLY, A CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM CONCERNING THIS POSSIBILITY WAS DIRECTED TO THE DG, AND SECRETARIAT HAS CAREFULLY PREPARED AN AGENDA (PARA 7 BELOW) WHICH FOCUSES ATTENTION ON TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF NEWS AGENCY QUESTIONS. JUST THE SAME, PREVAILING OPINION AMONG INTERESTED PARTIES SEEMS TO BE THAT OANA WOULD BE RICHER AND MORE REPRESENTATIVE AN ORGANIZATION WITH THE PRC, AND ALSO VIETNAMESE AND NORTH KOREAN PARTICIPATION.

7. PROVISIONAL AGENDA: BEGIN QUOTE:

1. OPENING OF MEETING.

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

3. SURVEY OF THE SITUATION.

A. NEWS GATHERING AND DISTRIBUTION ARRANGEMENTS AND SERVICE AT NATIONAL LEVEL IN ASIA;

B. EXCHANGE OF NEWS BETWEEN ASIAN NEWS AGENCIES (BILATERAL, MULTILATERAL, REGIONAL AND POOL ARRANGEMENTS);

C. CONTRIBUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL NEWS AGENCIES TO NEWS EXCHANGES IN ASIA (ORGANIZATION, STRUCTURES, CONTENT AND VOLUME OF NEWS);

D. EXCHANGE OF NEWS BETWEEN ASIA AND OTHER REGIONS;  
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3. AUDIO-VISUAL NEWS SERVICES AND EXCHANGES (NEWSREEL, RADIO, AND TV NEWS SERVICES);

F. FEATURE AND PHOTO SERVICES FOR NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS;

G. TECHNICAL FACILITIES AND COSTS OF NEWS EXCHANGES.

4. SUGGESTIONS FOR ACTION:

- HOW TO IMPROVE THE EXCHANGE OF NEWS, NEWSREEL, RADIO AND TELEVISION MATERIAL BETWEEN ASIAN COUNTRIES:

B REGIONAL COOPERATION AND COOPERATIVE INITIATIVES FOR BETTER REGIONAL AND WORLD COVERAGE:

C. CONTRIBUTIONS TO A NEW INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION ORDER

D. CRITERIA FOR NEWS VALUES IN THE ASIAN CONTEXT:

E. IMPROVEMENT OF TRANSMISSION FACILITIES AND REDUCTION OF TRANSMISSION COSTS:

F. NEEDS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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